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Poisonous serpents are said not to exist in New Caledonia, contrary to the statement of Hoffmann in Bronn's *Thierreich*. Dr. Trouessart (*Bull. Soc. Zool. France*, Vol. XXIII, No. 11) believes that *Neelaps caledonicus* was derived by Hoffmann by misreading Günther's *Neelaps calonatus* from New Grenada.

The Zoantharia of the Magellanic Region have been reported on by Dr. O. Carlgren, and published by Friederichsen & Co. of Hamburg under the general title of *Hamburger Magelhaensische Sammelreise*. Thirteen new species and three new genera are described.

A new enemy to the grasshoppers, which for several years have been devastating Argentina, has developed in the shape of a scarabrid beetle belonging to the genus *Frox*, which has taken to eating the eggs.

Albinism in a squirrel is illustrated by photographs in *Bull. Soc. Zool. France*, Vol. XXIII, No. 11, by L. Petit, in the case of a brown squirrel which is about 50 per cent albino and nearly evenly marked.

Mr. W. S. Calman has published an exhaustive review of the literature on the reproduction of the Rotifera in *Natural Science*.

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## BOTANY.

**Vines's Text-Book.**<sup>1</sup>—In scope and bulk intermediate between Professor Vines's *Students' Text-Book of Botany* and the English edition of Prantl's *Elementary Text-Book*, this volume treats of the morphology, anatomy, physiology, and classification of plants in a clear and understandable way, and the illustrations, many of which are familiar to users of text-books, are in the main well selected.

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**The Teacher's Leaflets**, chiefly on nature-study, issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Cornell University, are admirably plain and direct presentations of everyday phenomena, the understanding of which is obscured by many of the more learned treatises. How a squash plant gets out of the seed, How a candle burns, Four apple twigs, How the trees look in winter, A children's garden, Some tent-makers, What is nature-study? Hint on making collec-

<sup>1</sup> Vines, S. H. *An Elementary Text-Book of Botany*. London, Swan Sonnenschein & Co. New York, The Macmillan Company. 611 pp., 397 ff. Price \$2.25.